Education Guarantees Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education (EGS & AIE), as part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan targeting the universalisation of Elementary Education for the age group of 6-14 years and made operational w.e.f. 1.4.2001. Hence no funding is being provided to the erstwhile Non Formal Education Centres with effect from 1.4.2001.

The EGS & AIE scheme and District Primary Education Programme provides for opening of Alternative Schools/EGS Centres in habitations which do not have a school within a radious of 1 km and adoption of other strategies to meet the varied needs of out of school children. So far 80,871 Alternative Schools/EGS centres have been sanctioned for operationalisation in the country, including 6,394 in Andhra Pradesh. In addition, 5995 bridge courses have been conducted including 576 in Andhra Pradesh. Further proposals for opening of centres and other interventions under the EGS & AIE are being considered as part of the District Elementary Education Plans.

Khanna Committee Recommendations on CRS

*365. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khanna Committee has recommended that the Commissioners of Railway Safety (CRS) be appointed by making the selection more broadbased then restricting the same to civil engineers only; and

(b) if so, the action taken to implement the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Railway Safety Review Committee (Khanna Committee) in Part-II of their Report has, *inter alia*, recommended that railwaymen from other disciplines directly associated with train operations such as Mechanical, Traffic, Signal and Electrical, should also be eligible for posting as CRS (Commissioner of Railway Safety). The Report of the Committee has already been laid on the table of both houses of Parliament.

(b) Recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.